

# Return to Use Initiative

## 2004 Demonstration Project

### Fulbright Landfill: Springfield, Missouri

**THE SITE:** The Fulbright Landfill Superfund Site consists of two landfills that are approximately one mile apart: the 98-acre Fulbright Landfill and the 114-acre Sac River Landfill. The landfills accepted industrial and domestic wastes in the City of Springfield, Missouri, from 1962 to 1974. The Fulbright Landfill was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. Both the Fulbright Landfill and the Sac River Landfill were listed on the Missouri registry of hazardous waste sites in 1984. Cleanup activities at the site addressed volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, and cyanide contamination in ground water at the site. All construction at the site is complete and ground water monitoring continues to show that the plume is contained on site. Since their closings, the Fulbright Landfill and the Sac River Landfill have remained vacant parcels in the flood plains of the Little Sac and South Dry Sac Rivers.

**THE OPPORTUNITY:** The site's location on the Little Sac and South Dry Sac Rivers makes it ideal for recreational reuse. In fact, the City of Springfield and Ozark Greenways Inc., a non-profit group, in conjunction with the Springfield Green County Parks Department, are currently implementing a plan for a South Dry Sac Greenway that would place a trail along a 12-mile stretch of the Little Sac and Dry Sac Rivers.

**THE BARRIERS:** The Fulbright Landfill Superfund Site property has been vacant for 35 years. During this time, the shoreline of the South Dry Sac River has eroded, exposing small amounts of landfill debris. The City of Springfield needed to carry out shoreline restoration work and soil sampling before the property could be used for recreation. Institutional controls (ICs) currently restrict future use of the property and stakeholders have requested assurance that the site is ready for recreational reuse.

**THE SOLUTION:** Reuse of the Fulbright Landfill Superfund Site will require cooperation among a large group of stakeholders, including EPA, the City of Springfield, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Under the Return to Use Initiative, these stakeholders have committed to devising a plan for carrying out the necessary steps to protect the existing remedy and prepare the site for reuse. ICs currently restrict future use; however, EPA and the City of Springfield have agreed to work together to implement new restrictions that allow for the safe



#### **Barriers:**

Institutional controls impeding reuse; Superfund site stigma

#### **Solution:**

EPA, MDNR, and local officials work together to create a plan to take the necessary steps to reuse the site; enhanced stakeholder process; future RfR Determination



#### **Before:**

Cleaned up landfills ready for reuse; 212 acres of available property

#### **After:**

Planned recreation area

future use of the property. EPA supported an enhanced stakeholder process to determine what specific types of future uses might be compatible with the site's remedy. As part of this process, EPA and the City of Springfield explored reuse options as well as innovative techniques to protect the site's existing remedy. EPA has completed the third Five-Year Review for the site, which allowed the Agency to assess any additional obstacles to reuse. The City of Springfield recently completed shoreline restoration work and provided soil sampling data to EPA to confirm that the site's soils do not pose health risks to recreational users and to determine the soil's suitability for future plantings at the site. During the Five-Year Review process, EPA investigated the remedy, the types of reuses the remedy can support, and the steps necessary for the remedy to remain protective and allow for reuse at the site. It is anticipated that EPA will issue a Ready for Reuse (RfR) Determination, which is a technical determination that the site is ready for a specified type of reuse.

**FUTURE REUSE:** The Sac River and Fulbright Landfill Stakeholder Committee held multiple meetings in 2004 and 2005 to consider potential future uses for the site. The Committee developed a potential reuse plan for the site that includes the development of a municipal tree nursery, construction of sports fields and a model airplane flying zone, environmental education demonstration projects, and the incorporation of the former landfills into the planned South Dry Sac River greenway. The initial draft of the RfR Determination has been completed, and is awaiting implementation of appropriate and effective ICs at the site before completion. With the community's reuse plan, the new ICs, and an RfR Determination in place, the Fulbright Landfill Superfund site will be ready for recreational reuse activities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Tonya Howell, Region 7 Superfund Redevelopment Coordinator, at (913) 551-7589 or [howell.tonya@epa.gov](mailto:howell.tonya@epa.gov).



*View of the central area of the Fulbright Landfill, looking southeast. Potential future uses identified by the Stakeholder Committee include passive recreational uses such as walking and equestrian trails, picnic areas, and interpretive focal points.*